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THE MONT BLANC TRAGEDY.

Twelve thousand feet above Chamonix rise the forbidding crags of Mont Blanc. Two young men are marooned near its towering peak, and Chamonix is the headquarters of a hazardous rescue operation. The famous skating rink has become a helicopter base. Altogether there are ten men on the mountain in peril of their lives - the two stranded climbers, four airmen who crash-landed a helicopter in a first rescue attempt, and four parashutists who joined the search.

The two climbers, near to death with frostbite, are sheltering in the crashed helicopter. But an 80-mile-an-hour gale prevents any further landings. The eight men who reached the spot have managed to struggle to a nearby refuge hut. When all hope of saving the two lives has gone, the would-be rescuers are themselves rescued. Their tragedy is that they reached the dying men while they were still alive, but that it was not humanly possible, to bring them to safety. Two of them were injured in the attempt; and whatever could be done, they have done.